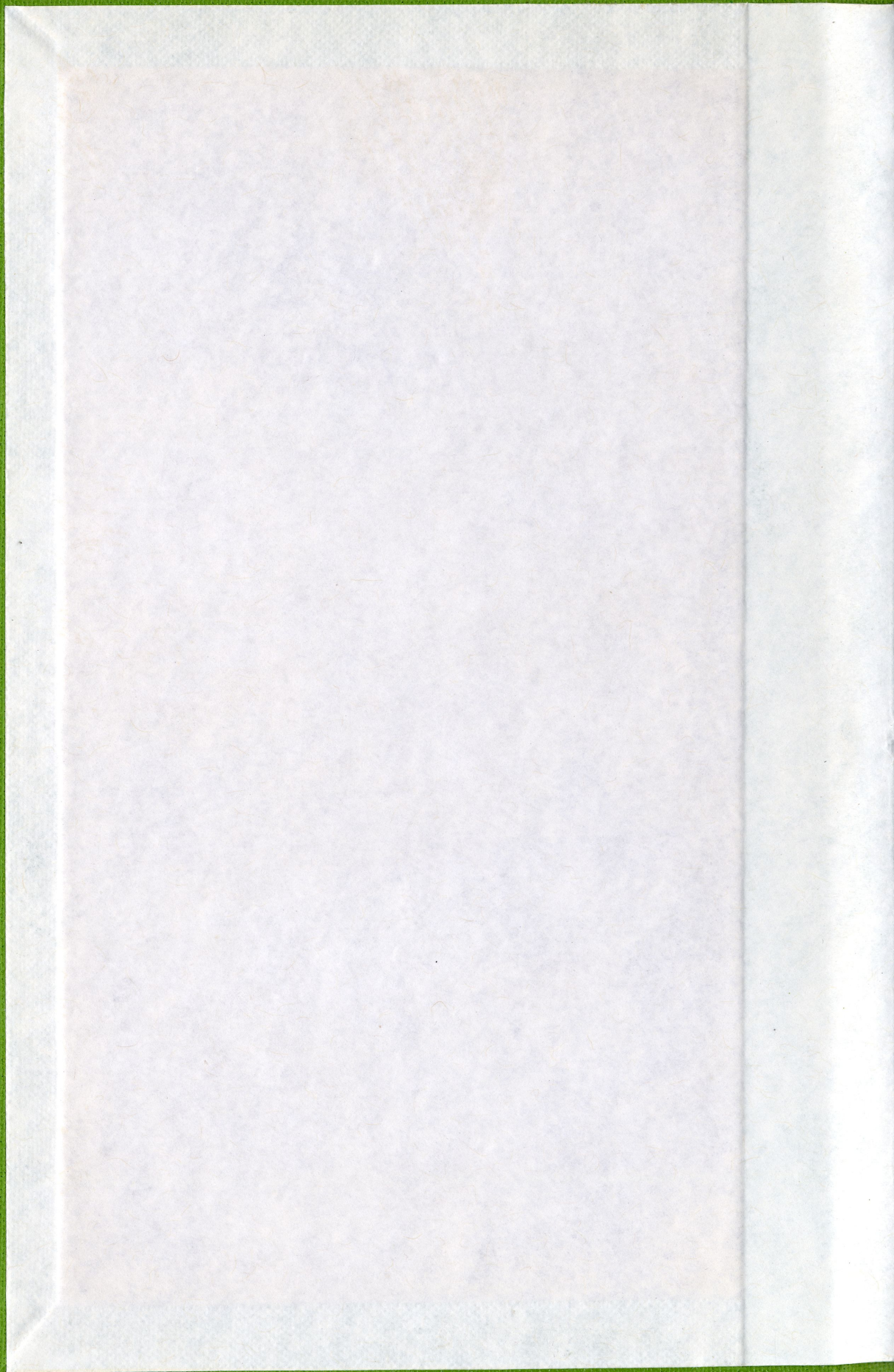


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PASTORAL LETTER  
ON THE  
EUROPEAN WAR

BY  
ARCHBISHOP DUNNE















# PASTORAL LETTER

OF THE

Archbishop of Brisbane,

TO

## THE CLERGY AND LAITY

OF

### The Archdiocese

ON THE

## EUROPEAN WAR.

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**Brisbane:**

PRINTED BY SAPSFORD & CO., ADELAIDE STREET.

1916.







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## ROBERT,

*By the Grace of God and Favour of the Apostolic See,*

**Archbishop of Brisbane,**

TO

**THE CLERGY AND LAITY OF THE ARCHDIOCESE.**

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VERY REV. AND REV. FATHERS AND DEAR BRETHREN,

The evening of a peaceful life has been overshadowed by a great sorrow, on which I have many times felt I should address you, and on which I now feel I can no longer remain silent. Seeing, however, that owing to weight of years and bodily infirmity, I am not able to meet in person the members of my flock and address them *viva voce* as formerly, I am constrained to put in the form of a short Pastoral Letter some, at least, of the many considerations that occupy my mind in the present grave crisis in our history.

And, first of all, I wish to direct words of heartfelt sympathy to the relatives of our soldiers who have fallen in battle at the Dardanelles. May our Heavenly Father comfort them in their bereavement and reward them for so freely offering the lives of their bravest and best for King and Country and for us.

The sacrifice of those lives will bear precious fruit for the cause in which they were laid down, and the blood thus shed will purify and cement our national life as a people who have inherited a richly endowed land and great traditions.



It is just on twelve months since the outbreak of war, and the saddest of all its sad spectacles has been the agony of Belgium, with its fair cities laid waste, its inestimable treasures of art and learning destroyed, its cathedrals, churches and convents devastated, and its peaceful inhabitants slain or ruthlessly driven from their ruined homes.

The King and people of that small nation have won world-wide admiration and sympathy, and it is gratifying to be able to record that Australia has been notably generous in her tribute of praise and practical assistance.

Compared to the present international struggle, with its opposing mountains of human flesh and blood, the wars recorded in Holy Writ were but as play, the clash of Greek and Roman arms was insignificant, and even more modern warfare was devoid of terror.

This war itself is so colossal, its theatre is so vast, its issues so momentous and so far-reaching, everything about it is so unparalleled that the human mind is overwhelmed at the contemplation of what its results may be, and with childlike faith falls back for the solution on God, in Whose hands are all creatures, and in Whose keeping are the secrets of the future.

The expenditure in money is prominent because of the unique magnitude of the sum involved. But it is only a minor consideration compared with the expenditure in human life and limb, the rending of hearts, the ruin of homes, and the suffering of those whose breadwinners have fallen in the fight.

Undoubtedly, God has some great purpose in the terrible events now taking place in Europe. Our Rulers have gone into this war from motives the most just and honourable, and we are confident that the ultimate issue will be a triumph for those high motives and the Christian civilization from which they spring.



But this belief and confidence should only make us anxious to conform, without murmur, to the Divine Will, and all the more ready to acknowledge how salutary is the chastening influence of the suffering, through which we have gone and through which we yet must pass, in order to assure ultimate victory and to be brought back to a higher sense of our obligations as a Christian people.

It is, then, our first duty to turn to our Creator in this time of unparalleled anxiety for the Nation, when the very main spring itself of civilization is threatened. Already we have the collect "*Pro tempore Belli*" recited daily at Mass. The clergy will continue the recitation of it, and exhort their respective congregations to increased prayer to our Divine Saviour and His Blessed Mother for the Army and Navy of the Empire, and particularly for the protection and success of our own Australian Arms. Attendance at week-morning Mass and the recital of the Rosary at home are especially recommended for this end.

With prayer we must combine practical work to help those who are fighting the Nation's battle. We must practise self-denial by curtailing our pleasures and amusements and by economising our means for a higher purpose. No security is too great where our Country's honor and happiness are at stake, and no one enjoying the blessings associated with life in this free and self-governed Southern Land can, without violating his sacred trust as a citizen, fail to fulfil the obligation, now incumbent on each of us, to render to the Empire all the service of which he is capable.

There is scarcely any need for me to remind you of the fidelity and bravery of the soldiers of the race from which so many of us have sprung, or to dwell on the promptness and enthusiasm with which Ireland made her decision and sprang into the fray at the



clarion call of duty on the outbreak of the present war. The teachings of our Faith now, as ever, bring about the same fruitful results, and centuries of distrust of his race, on the part of the British Government, have not shaken the loyalty or damped the courage of the Irish soldier.

Let us, in whose veins courses the same blood, not attempt to live on the contemplation of past achievements, but vie with our fellow citizens in doing our duty now.

Trusting in the protection of Heaven and in the justice of our cause, let parents rise to the supreme occasion, and, with a blessing on their lips, render to the Nation's call the sons that God has given them.

Let those who have means render generous assistance to the various patriotic movements—more particularly to the Belgian, the Red Cross and the Wounded Soldiers' Funds.

Let the women and girls of our Catholic societies and sodalities rival others in knitting, sewing and otherwise helping to make comforts for our soldiers. Priests and people everywhere will not, I feel confident, be behind hand in co-operating in every patriotic undertaking in their respective parishes and districts.

The call is urgent. Our duty is clear. No one can be neutral. The Nation has a right to say to us now what Christ long ago said to His disciples: "He that is not with Me is against Me and he that gathereth not with Me scattereth."—(Luke XI, 23.)

While helping the living, let us not forget the claims of the dead, to pray for whom "it is a holy and a wholesome thought" (II Mac., xii, 46). Several of our Catholic boys lie in those rough hewn graves in the Gallipoli Peninsula. The consoling ministrations of the Church accompanied them thither, and her suffrages



now follow them beyond those graves, pleading for their speedy cleansing from the last and least stain that might be deferring their entrance into Heaven.

In accordance with this spirit the celebration of a Solemn Requiem Mass for our Fallen Soldiers has been arranged to take place in St. Stephen's Cathedral at 10 o'clock on next Tuesday morning, 27th inst.

Finally, let me say that, far off as present indications may lead us to believe we are from the termination of the war, we must not cease to pray for the speedy advent of an honourable peace, in which the vital issues in our trust for future generations will find a favourable and lasting solution.

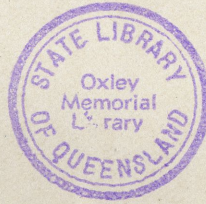
I remain,

Dearly beloved Brethren of the Clergy and Laity,

Your humble servant in Christ,

✠ ROBERT DUNNE,

ARCHBISHOP OF BRISBANE.



DARA, BRISBANE,

21st JULY, 1915.











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